

Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

Submission No: 051

Submission By: Nick Radge

Publication: Making the submission and your name public

Submission: Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026

The proposed Sunshine Coast Waterways Authority Bill 2026 is presented as a "fresh start" for waterway management. However, for the Noosa community, it represents a top-down decision made without genuine local consultation.

Despite claims of extensive engagement, there has been no meaningful consultation with the Noosa community, local MP Sandy Bolton, or the Kabi Kabi Traditional Owners. A reform of this scale should not proceed without transparent and inclusive local input.

Importantly, the Noosa River system is not in crisis. The 2025 Healthy Land and Water Report Card confirms the catchment is in "very good" condition, reflecting years of effective collaboration between community, council, and existing state agencies.

The allocation of \$35.6 million over three years to establish a new authority raises serious concerns. Rather than investing in frontline management through Maritime Safety Queensland, the Bill creates an additional layer of bureaucracy. Strengthening existing coordination would be a more efficient and accountable approach.

Equally concerning is the lack of guaranteed Noosa representation on the proposed board. Decisions affecting Noosa's waterways could be made without a local voice, centralising power away from the community and into a ministerially appointed body.

The Queensland Government should prioritise properly resourcing existing agencies rather than creating another layer of bureaucracy.